

Distressing Dangers, and Signal
Deliverances, Religiously improv'd.

A
S E R M O N

Preach'd at

New-Castle

I N

New-Hampshire,

January 1. 1726,7.

By **William Shurtleff. M.A.**

I N C O M M E M O R A T I O N
Of the Sufferings, Preservation and De-
liverance of a Company of Marriners,
many Years since Ship-wreck'd upon
Boon-Island Rock.

To which is added,
A *Narrative* of the same published by
the Commander of said Company.

*Psal. lxxvi. 16. Come & hear all ye that fear God,
and I will declare what he hath done for my Soul.*

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Diffusing Dangers, and Signal
Deliverances Religiously improved

3 E R M O N

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And elsewhere

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To the H O N O U R A B L E,

John Wentworth, Esq;

Lieut. GOVERNOUR, and Commander
in Chief, in and over His Majesty's
Province of New-Hampshire in
New-England.

S I R,



T having pleas'd your H O N O U R to require the Publication of the following Sermon ; tho' I am duly Conscious how unfit it is to appear among the polite Discourses with which we so much abound at present, yet considering the Station the Divine Providence has plac'd you in, and the many undeserv'd Favours I have received from you, I could not but comply with it, without the Imputation of Crimes, that I had rather run the Risque of my Reputation than incur.

THE Gentleman upon whose Account principally it was preach'd, is a Stranger to me ; and so I can only say, that his Care to publish the merciful and almost miraculous Dispensations of Heaven towards him, and to have them improv'd for the Benefit of others, has a good Aspect, and is well worthy of Imitation.

I r

DEDICATION.

It seems He was personally known to your HONOUR, and in his Narrative I find him making mention of your Name with Respect, for that generous Disposition that has been so conspicuous in the various Posts wherein you have appear'd; and for that amicable and obliging Deportment, wherewith you are wont to treat Persons of every Rank, but more especially those of us, who are separated to the Service of the Altar. Whereby (among many other ways) you have laid us under peculiar Engagements, and are entitled to our best Wishes.

MAY the GOD, that hath hitherto preserv'd and prosper'd you, yet further shower down his Blessings upon you. May your Life & Health be continued, and your Opportunities of being useful to the Publick prolonged. Having for a great while serv'd your Generation by the Will of GOD, may you Sleep in JESUS. And when at last you shall awake and arise, may it be in distinguishing Circumstances of Glory. And having been advanc'd above others here, may you have a superiour Seat assign'd you in the Mansions of the Blessed.

THIS (may it please your HONOUR) is the hearty Desire, and fervent Prayer of

Your HONOUR'S

most obliged, and

obedient Servant.

New Castle,

March 1. 1726,7.

William Shurtleff.



Distressing Dangers

A N D

Signal Deliverances

Religiously Improved.

P S A L M CXVI. 3, 4, 5.

THE Sorrows of Death compassed me, and the Pains of Hell gat hold upon me : I found Trouble & Sorrow. Then called I upon the Name of the Lord : O Lord I beseech thee, deliver my Soul. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous, yea our God is merciful.

BEFORE I enter upon the Consideration of the Words now Read, it may not be improper to suggest the Occasion of your being entertain'd with a Discourse upon such a Subject at present : Which the wonderful Preservation of a number of *tarriners*, * that were sometime since ck'd, and reduc'd to the last Distress, a Rock usually known by the Name

Capt. John Deane, and Company.

of

of *Boon-Island*, not far distant from this Place. The Commander of which Company, who *having obtain'd help of God continues*, as we trust *to this Day*, having manifested himself sollicitous that the Memory of so extraordinary a Providence might be preserv'd, and that a Sermon might be preach'd to this End ; and the very Honourable Person to whom he hath express'd this his Desire, having been pleas'd to assign me the Task : From a just Deference & Respect to Him, whose Commands, both Duty and Gratitude oblige me with all Chearfulness to obey ; As also to comply with the reasonable Request of the Gentleman thus wonderfully preserv'd ; and from a View of improving this remarkable Event to the spiritual Good and Advantage of those of you, with whom I am more immediately concern'd, particularly of my Sea-faring Friends & Neighbours ; I have undertaken to say something upon the Occasion. And this being the Season of the Year, wherein the Deliverance was obtain'd, I have taken this Time, and chosen these Words in order to it.

The Psalmist having been wont to *call upon God in the Day of Trouble*, and having found Him *a God bearing Prayer*, and ready to grant Him the Succour and Relief he hath need of ; He begins this Psalm with a Confession of his Love to him, and with a resolution to continue praying till he should be breathing. *I love the Lord*, says he, *he hath heard my Voice, and my Supplication.*

Bea.

Because he hath inclined his Ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him, as long as I live. And then having declar'd in general, what GOD had done for him, to inflame his Affections, and to enkindle and encourage his Devotions; "That he had accepted his Prayers, and heard "his Cries, That he had taken Cognizance of "his Case, and granted him an Answer of Peace, and had herein shewn himself very benign and gracious to him; He proceeds to tell of a particular Instance wherein he had found him to be so, viz. In appearing for him, and delivering him in a Time of great Distress. A Time, when he was incircled and beset with Dangers, and there seem'd to be no way for his Escape. The sorrows of Death compassed me, and the pains of Hell gat hold upon me, I found trouble & sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord, O Lord I beseech thee deliver my Soul. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous: yea our God is merciful.

I shall not pretend curiously to examin into the Terms, nor so much as attempt a nice and critical Consideration of the several parts of the Text. But shall take them as they lay, and explain them as I go along, as far as will be needful for my present Purpose. In the Prosecution of which it will be proper for me to consider . . . The sore and deep Distress the

it was in. 2. The Recourse he had to in this Distress. 3. The Success he met with the Experience he had of the Good-
GOD in hearing his Prayers and granting his Desires. And, 4. & lastly, His Care

to maintain, and gratefully to express a Sense and Remembrance of it.

I. I am to consider *the sore and deep Distress the Psalmist was in*, together with the Occasion of it, which is here very pathetically express'd, tho' we are left in the Dark as to the Time, Place, and some other Circumstances of it. *The sorrows of Death compassed me, and the pains of Hell gat hold upon me; I found trouble & sorrow.*

The Sorrows of Death, i. e. Such Sorrows as usually attend it's Approach, or that ordinarily arise from the near Prospect of it. These compassed him on every side. Which way soever he turn'd himself, Death look'd him in the Face, and he was ready to give up himself for lost and gone. Yea he tells us, that *the Pains of Hell found him, or gat hold upon him*, i. e. If by Hell, we understand the Grave, as the Word may be properly rendred; the Pains that lead to it, and are for the most part the immediate Fore-runners of it. Or if we extend the Word further, and take it according to the common and ordinary Acceptation of it; The Psalmist intends that he was afflicted with a sense of Guilt, and under great Distresses and Terrors of Conscience; in which the Punishments of another Life partly consist, and which some have felt in a lesser Degree, before they have left this World. Yea some good Men have not been wholly free Trouble upon this Account, under the apprehensions of approaching Death. And if was the Psalmists Case, he might wel

that he found *Trouble & Sorrow*. Now these fore and deadly Sorrows were not peculiar to David. They are what others are liable to, and often meet with; and that which beset him is no more than is common to Men.

The *Observation* then that I shall make from this part of my Text is only this:

THAT in our Passage thro' this evil World, we are sometimes sorely troubled and distress'd, under the View and Apprehension of Approaching Death.

It is a World of Difficulties & Dangers that we live in. During the few Days of our Pilgrimage here, how many are the Miseries that we feel, and how many more that we fear? How often does Death it self, the most formidable of outward Evils, and King of *Terrors* come arm'd against us, and seem just ready to lay it's Arrests upon us? The greedy and insatiable Destroyer every now and then shews his grim and dismal Face: We see his cold and cruel Arms extended, and every moment expect to be grasp'd and devour'd. Some by Sicknes are brought within the near View of Death. Some by one Way and Means, and some by another. Some by reason of Perils Land; and some by Perils upon the Sea. There are perhaps none of any other kind of Employment whatsoever, so often under the Apprehension of approaching Death as those that use the Seas. Besides the

man" Disasters they are liable to in common with others; How often are they sensibly endangered by Reason of the Rocks, Banks and Sands that lay ready to break & devour them, and of the raging & roaring Billows whereby in tempestuous Seasons they are liable to be overwhelmed and swallowed up in the Deep? *They, says the Psalmist, that go down to the sea in ships, and do Business upon the great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depth; their soul is melted because of Trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits end,* Psal. 107. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. This is sometimes the Case with the bravest and boldest of them. Their Dangers are such, that they can neither shake off nor dissemble their Fears. But all hope of being saved being taken away, they are amazed & confounded. And if unexpectedly they escape the Seas, how often do they find themselves cast upon some desolate Shoar, or some distant Rock, where they have still little else but Destruction before them, and have it may be only exchanged the prospect of a sudden, for that of a lingering and more painful Death.

Thus are Persons in their passage in an evil World frequently brought under apprehensions of approaching Death. A sorrowful and distressing for the most part especially at some Times and under some circumstances.

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cumstances, is the near View & Prospect of it. We can't well seriously contemplate it at a Distance but it strikes some kind of Dread upon us; and how much more awful must it be to consider it as at hand, and imagine our selves upon the very Confines of it. The Apprehensions of approaching Death ordinarily carry considerable Terror with them, even to those who enjoy the Society and Assistance of their Friends, and every thing else they can reasonably expect, to render it easy and comfortable to them: But how much more to those that are remote from all that are near and dear to them, and have hardly any to be aiding and assisting either to their Souls or Bodies.

Even to one that has lead a good Life, and that is not wholly unprepared for Death, the near View of it is seldom without it's Sorrows. Besides the bodily Pain, which at such a Time he ordinarily endures, what dark Clouds are there often over-shadowing his Mind? It may be he is engag'd in some useful Designs; and it's a Grief to him to be taken off from them, lest they miscarry and fall to the Ground. It may be he has a tender Offspring, a loving Consort, or other near Relatives; and it gives him some Uneasiness to think that he must leave them in a sinful and sorrowful World, amidst innumerable Snares and Troubles: He must be separated from his dear Friends and Companions: That he must see their Faces no more, nor have any further Converse or Communication with them for a long Time, if and then in a new and unknown manner.

And

And then besides these, and a great many other temporal Considerations, that often conspire to hinder the good Man's Repose under the Apprehensions of approaching Death; he is sometimes sorely disquieted on spiritual Accounts. He may possibly then doubt whether his Peace be made with GOD, and he be in a State of Grace and Favour with him; and is ready it may be to shiver, and shrink back at the thoughts of putting off this Body, and of appearing naked before him. His Evidences for Heaven are frequently at such a Time obscured; and he is full of perplexing & distressing Fears lest he should cheat and deceive himself in this great & important Affair, and lest he should after all miscarry & perish forever. Insomuch that the Pains of Hell may in a sense be said to get hold of him.

But then if the near view of Death be sometimes thus sorrowful and distressing to the good and virtuous; what must it be to the careless and loose Liver, to the carnal & sensual, to the vicious & irreligious Person, to him that has made no Provision for a dying Hour, and who it may be has hardly ever seriously thought of it? When such a one conceives his Departure to be at Hand, and imagines himself upon the Borders of an eternal World, the Prospect of it must needs be peculiarly terrible & distasteful to him; who to the natural Terrors of Death has commonly added the Horrors of an awakened Conscience, and the Clamours & Accusations of a guilty Mind. All his past Sins now

haps stare him in the Face, threatening him with a speedy and everlasting Exile from GOD. And thus he stands trembling on the dreadful Precipice, looking with Horror into the vast Abyss below; expecting every moment to be push'd off, and plung'd into endless Misery & Perdition. Thus whilst the *Sorrows of Death compass him, the very Pains of Hell* sometimes get bold on him; and he feels some such kind of Agonies as those miserable Creatures endure, who are already gone down to the Regions of Darkness and Despair.

And now it may be his Distress drives him to GOD, tho' nothing else would do it. He who was before in a great measure a Stranger to GOD, who had little or nothing to do with him, and seldom, if ever, look'd up to him; then when his Chastening is upon him, will vouchsafe to visit him, and to pour out a Prayer to him: Much more will he at such a Time betake himself to Prayer, who has been before accustomed to it. Which brings me to the

II. Thing to be considered in the Text, viz. *The Recourse the Psalmist had to GOD* in this Distress; *The sorrows of Death compassed me, and the pains of Hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then, says he, called I upon the Lord.*

he here records the short, concise & copious Prayer he made upon this occasion. *Then upon the Name of the Lord: O Lord I beseech deliver my soul.* i. e. Spare my Life, save it amidst the Dangers that threaten it; and

and redeem it from the Destruction that seems to be just coming upon it. Or we may extend the Words so far as to include a desire that he might be safe as to his spiritual & eternal Interests; That he might be preserved not only from Death, but from Hell; and that he might be saved from everlasting Misery & Destruction. And it is in a manner Natural to all Mankind at such Times to flee to GOD, and to make the like Application to him.

Accordingly I shall here only observe;

THAT *when any are distress'd thro' the Apprehensions of approaching Death, it is proper and common for them to call upon GOD, and make their earnest Prayer to him to deliver their Souls.*

Prayer indeed ought to be a Christian's daily Exercise; and there is no Time, nor Circumstance of Life, wherein we are acquitted from our Obligations to it. But it is peculiarly seasonable in Times of great Danger & Distress. It is the particular and express Command of GOD, that we *Call upon him in the Day of trouble*, Psal. 50. 15. And it is he who says by his inspired Apostle: *Is any afflicted, let him pray*, Jam. 5. 13.

And as it is the Duty, so it is the usual Practice of Persons in their Distress to call **GOD**. Then when Creature Confidence fails them, they are forc'd to make him their refuge: and having in vain turned their round to every thing here on Earth, that

seems likely to afford them any Relief, they are ob-
 extend bl g'd to lift them up to Heaven and cry, *Help*
 that he Lord, *for vain is the help of Man.* We find the
 l Inte- very Heathen Marriners in their Distress crying
 t only every man to his God, Jonah 1.5. Thus much they
 might were taught by the very Light of Nature. And
 ction. the very worst of Men, even those that have
 unkind but little regard to Prayer or to any religious
 ke the Duty at other times commonly betake them-
 selves to it then. Yea the professed Atheist,
 who at other times has denied the very Ex-
 istence of GOD, in times of great Danger and
 Distress has been observed, notwithstanding all
 his Endeavours to the contrary, very plainly
 to discover a Belief of his Being: And not on-
 ly so, but has sometimes been forc'd to acknow-
 ledge it, and has cried to him for Relief.

And if they who Pray at no other time, will
 's dai- do it then, surely these will not neglect it, who
 rcum- before liv'd in the daily Practice of it: And
 from happy then are all such as are no Strangers at
 y sea the Throne of Grace; they must needs come
 efs. It more boldly to it than others.
 GOD, And at such a time they are peculiarly ear-
 e, Psal. nest & fervent in their Addresses to Heaven.
 spired How cold, formal and indifferent are the most
 n.5.13. if not all of us in our Prayers at other Times?
 Prac- And how often do we Pray as if we were only
 in Jest, and mattered not whither we obtained
 the thing we Pray for? But when Dangers
 surround us, and Death threatens us, then we
 pray with warmth, and like Men in earnest.
 Then we offer up Prayers and Supplications

with strong Crying & Tears, unto him who alone is able to save us from Death.

And what is it ordinarily that Persons then Pray to him for, but to *deliver their Souls*? They cry to him, to spare their Lives, and to grant them at least some short Reprieve. Tho' Time, it may be, was before but of little Value with them, and has been foolishly misemploy'd and mispent by them; yea tho' it may often have been a Burden to them, and they have been glad of any that would take it off their Hands; yet now they see it to be precious, and would give a great deal to have it lengthned out, if it were but for a little space, and very earnestly solicit and plead for it. Thus they cry to GOD to save them from Death, or if not, to preserve them from Hell. They no longer think and speak of Damnation as a light and inconsiderable matter. No: those impious and profane Wretches that now so often imprecate it upon themselves and others, then see something in it more terrible than can be express'd, and deprecate it with greater earnestness of Soul than we can easily conceive. They cry mightily to GOD to pardon their Sins, to have Mercy upon their Souls, and to save them from that dreadful & amazing Gulf, that presents it self to their view, and seems just ready to swallow them up

Thus it's both proper and common for Persons when deeply distress'd thro' the apprehensions of approaching Death to call upon GOD, and with the Psalmist to make it their earnest Prayer

who Prayer to him, that he would deliver their Souls.

And having thus briefly considered the Recourse he had to GOD; I proceed to the

III. Thing, that offers it self to our Consideration in the Text; which is *the Success the Psalmist met with, or the Experience he had of the Goodness of GOD in hearing his Prayers and granting his Requests. Then called I upon the Name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee deliver my Soul. It follows, Gracious is the Lord, and righteous, yea our GOD is merciful.*

These words I am sensible are sometimes taken as part of the Psalmist's Prayer, or as a Plea to enforce it: But they seem to be rather a Declaration of his Experience, as they are generally taken, and so I shall understand them here. As GOD was Righteous in bringing him into Trouble, so he found him gracious and merciful in hearkning to his Cries, and in bringing him out. As in the following verse, *I was brought low, and he helped me. Again ver. 8. Thou hast delivered my Soul from Death, mine eyes from Tears, and my feet from falling.*

Here then I observe,
T H A T G O D sometimes shews himself gracious & merciful, in bearing and delivering those, who in Times of Danger & Distress call upon him.

He may deliver their Souls, tho' he does not see meet to spare & prolong their Lives; and does sometimes save those with an eternal
C 2
Salvation,

Salvation, whom he delivers up to temporal Destruction. Yea, we are assured that as for all those that fear and serve him, and that have before made Conscience of Prayer, and the other Duties they owe him; He will not be wholly inexorable or altogether cast them off, when in their Distress they call upon him; but will so far hear them, as to save them from everlasting Misery; and the second Death shall have no Power on them. But as for such as have neglected GOD, and never in good earnest sought him till their Strains and Exigences compel them to it; they have little reason to expect that he will regard their extorted Cries: and it's a thousand to one if they are not rejected, and next to a miracle of Mercy, if they do not perish for ever. Tho' after all, we must not limit the Grace of GOD; but would fain hope that it is sometimes extended to such; and it is certainly the best thing they can do, to cry mightily to him.

But we know that he is pleased very often to save their Lives, and to allow them some further Time of Trial. When Dangers surround them, he so far hearkens to their Prayer as to appear for them, and to preserve them from the Ruine that impends and seems just falling upon them. When all human Aids have fail'd and forsaken them, how often has he made bare his Arm, and very wonderfully wrought out Salvation for them? His Power and Goodness have been many a Time thus signally displayed, when Persons have by Sickness been brought

brought low, even to the very Gates of the Grave; when they have fallen into the hands of cruel and bloody Enemies, and there has been but a step betwixt them and Death; and in a great many other Dangers upon the Land, and upon the Sea.

Thus in that fore mentioned 107th Psalm; the Psalmist speaking of Sea-faring Persons, when in stormy and tempestuous Seasons they are reduc'd to the last Ex'tremity, and are even at their Wits end, ver. 28. *Then, says he, they cry unto the Lord in their Trouble, and he bringeth them out of their Distresses.* How often have such seen of the wonders of his Power & Goodness, in appeasing the rough & boisterous Sea, and in saying to it, *Peace and be still*, just at the Time when their Exigence has required it; as also in rebuking the mighty Wind, or in causing a sudden shift & alteration of it, when upon the brink of Ruin, and when to human Appearance nothing else could have saved them from it? And then how remarkably has he sometimes supported and preserved Men's Lives, for a long Time together, when in danger of perishing by Cold and Hunger and other Straits and Difficulties, they have been expos'd to? And how strangely has his Providence very often interposed on their behalf? Yea many a Time has he saved them, by disappointing them, and by over throwing their own Designs & Purposes; so that they have been afterwards made to see that the very Schemes which they have projected for their Safety, had they not been blasted, must

must unavoidably have been the means of their Ruin. And having thus suspended their Deliverance for some time, for the further Trial of their Faith & Patience, he at length stretches out an omnipotent Arm; and in his own way, and his own Time he accomplishes & effects it for them; and they see abundant Cause to say with the Psalmist, *Gracious is the Lord and righteous, yea our God is merciful.*

And so I come,

IV. & lastly, To consider *his Care to maintain, and gratefully to express a Sense & Remembrance of the Goodness of GOD to him*

The Record he makes of it in our Text, sufficiently demonstrates this to us: And there are many other Passages in the Psalm, which plainly speak the affecting sense he had of what GOD had done for him, and the Concern he was under to make suitable Returns to him. Thus ver. 12, 13, 14. *What shall I render unto the Lord, for all his Benefits towards me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord, now in the presence of all his people.* Again, ver. 17, 18. *I will offer to thee, the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the Name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord, now in the presence of all his people.* Whose Example is useful and instructive to us, and very well worthy of Imitation.

The only Observation yet before us, then is,

T H A T

THAT *such as have found GOD gracious and merciful in bearing and delivering them, when in times of great Danger and Distress they have cried to him, should be careful to maintain, and gratefully express a Sense and Remembrance of it.*

1. *Such should be careful to maintain a Sense of the Divine Mercy, and endeavour to preserve and keep up the Remembrance of it.*

It therefore very well becomes them to be often looking back upon their Dangers, and to bring to mind their Difficulties and Distresses, by which means they will be the more likely to retain a grateful Relish of the Goodness of GOD displayed in their Deliverances. Yea would they commit these things to Writing, and keep an exact Record of them, it would doubtless conduce very much to this End : And the Review and Rehearsal of them might upon many Accounts be of great use to themselves & others. And were the laudable Practice of annually observing the Day of any very remarkable Deliverance, which is in Use with some, more common among Men ; did they do it in a proper manner, it must needs have a considerable tendency to preserve and keep up in their Minds a sense of the Divine Mercy.

And then,

2. *Such as have found God gracious & merciful in bearing & delivering them in Times of great Danger and Distress, should be careful gratefully to express their Sense & Remembrance of it.*

I shall not now spend Time in shewing why they ought to be so : The Reasons of it being very plain & obvious. But shall only say in two or three Hints, *How or in what Way such should express their Sense of what God hath done for them.* And,

1. Those whom GOD hath thus heard and deliver'd, should express their Sense & Remembrance of his Mercy, by *their sincere & hearty Praises to him.*

Did they think it fit & proper to Pray to him in their Danger & Distress ? It is equally so to Praise him, when delivered out of it. They are therefore to come before GOD with Thanksgiving ; and solemnly & publickly to pay their Acknowledgments to him. The Psalmist urges this as a suitable and proper Return for such Mercies ; as in that Psal. 107. 31, 32. *Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works unto the children of men : Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.* And then they are secretly as well as openly and publickly to acknowledge GOD's great Goodness to them ; and that not only as soon as he has delivered them out of Danger, but they are occasionally to be offering Praise & Thanksgiving to him throughout the remainder of their Days. Agreeable to that Resolution of the Psalmist, Psal. 146. 2. *While I live will I praise the Lord : I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*

2. Those

2. Those who have found GOD gracious and merciful in hearing & delivering them in Times of great Danger & Distress, should express their Sense and Remembrance of it, *by a constant Care to please & obey him in the Course of their Lives.*

They should mourn and be in bitterness that they have ever displeased so Compassionate a GOD & Father as he hath been to them, and repair to the Blood of Jesus, that all their past guilt may be washed away; and for the future should be careful to lead holy & obedient Lives, and to *walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good Work.* I may say with respect to every such Person as *Elibu* does, Job 34. 31, 32. *Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I will not offend any more. That which I see not, teach thou me; if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.* When in our Distress we have *called upon the Lord, and cried unto our God*; hath he heard our Prayers, and been better to us than our Fears? When we have been brought to the very Gates of Death and Hell, hath he had Pity upon us, and in Mercy rescued and saved us from them? Would it not be monstrous Ingratitude, after this to persist in our Rebellions against him? Would it not be justly imputed to us as an Instance of prodigious Baseness, should we ever more profane or blaspheme the Name of that GOD that hath thus appeared for us? Should we ever more lead a carnal & sensual Life, or trample upon any of the divine Laws? Were we delivered to do these Abominations? No surely, GOD expected

very different Returns from us: And if we thus requite the Lord, our Disobedience will be attended with very distinguishing Aggravations, and we shall lie open to the severest Repentments of an angry & incensed Judge GOD very justly requires, that the Lives which he has unexpectedly spared and prolong'd to us should be spent in his Service. And one would think, had we any spark of Ingenuity, it should oblige us for ever after to shun the forbidden Paths of Sin and Vice; to have respect to all his Commandments, and continually to study and endeavour a nearer Conformity to his Will: *Who hath shewed thee, O man what is good; and what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?* Micah 6. 8. Thus should we manifest a grateful sense of GOD's Goodness in the special Deliverances he has wrought out for us, by being careful for ever after to do his Will, and to regulate our Lives & Actions by his just and righteous Laws. We should resolve with the Psalmist in our Context; *That we will call upon the Name of the Lord as long as we live:* That we will always make Conscience of Prayer and other Ordinances; and of all the Duties we owe to him. Yea we should resolve as in ver. 9. *That we will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.* And this it may be is no more than our own Promises and Protestations bind and oblige us to.

Which leads me to say,

3. That

2. That those whom GOD hath heard and delivered in Times of great Danger & Distress, should *carefully & religiously perform the solemn Vows & Promises they have made to Him*; and herein evidence their Mindfulness of what he hath done for them.

As it's common for Persons to call upon GOD in their Distress, so it's usual for their Prayers at such a Time to be accompanied with very solemn Vows. That which they promise it may be is only in general, that if it please GOD to deliver them, they will lead righteous, sober, and godly Lives; that they will for ever after be devoted to his Service, and yield a universal & steady Obedience to his Laws. And tho' this be no more, than they were otherwise obliged to, yet the Obligation is hereby strengthened: And in case they neglect to do it, their Crime will be fearfully complicated, and their Guilt very greatly aggravated & enhans'd. Or else Persons may be more particular in the solemn Vows they make to GOD in times of Trouble & Distress. They promise, it may be, if GOD deliver them in this or that particular Instance, to mortify & deny themselves, or that they will perform some particular Works of Piety or Charity: And tho' they might not be obliged to do these Things before in such a Manner, or Degree; yet they now become indispensable Duties, and having *opened their Mouth to the Lord, they cannot go back.*

It is hardly to be supposed that we should now any Thing to GOD in Times of Trouble,

but what is in it self lawful, if not antecedently a Duty. And in all such Cases, we must pay that which we have Vowed. Otherwise we must needs be very base & disingenuous, as well as false and perfidious; and the Sense & Consideration of it will wound our Spirits, and be no small addition to the grief & anguish of our Minds, when we come again to be in Distress. Yea it will be a vast Discouragement to us in our Applications to Heaven. With what Face can we then look up to GOD? Having thus shamefully mock'd & abus'd him: Having *flattered him with our Lips, and lied to him with our Tongues*. And should we never so earnestly call upon him for Deliverance, what can we rationally expect but that he will reject us, as he did the Israelites of old? Saying, *Go cry to the Gods ye have chosen, I will deliver you no more*. It concerns us therefore to be mindful of the solemn Promises we have made to GOD, when the Sorrows of Death have compassed us, and the Pains of Hell gat hold upon us; and to imitate the Example of *David*, in his pious Care and Concern to perform and make them good, Psal 66. 13, 14. *I will pay thee my Vows, which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken when I was in trouble*.

And then once more,

4. & lastly, Having found GOD merciful in hearing & delivering us, when in Times of Danger & Distress we have called upon him; we should express a Sense & Remembrance of what he hath done for us, by doing all that we can for him

him, and by being ever studious to promote the Honour of his Name.

Indeed, it is but very little that we can do for GOD. He is infinitely above us, and stands not in any need of us. It is not in the Power of us, or any of his Creatures to add any thing to his Felicity, or to make Him a whit more glorious than He is in Himself: But we may manifest and shew forth his Glory: And should thus study & endeavour to advance his Honour and Interest among Men. Those of us especially who have been the Subjects of signal Deliverances, and have in a peculiar manner seen of his Salvations: are obliged to exert our selves in his Service, to lay out our Powers, and employ all our Talents for Him, and to endeavour in and by all the ways that possibly we can to glorify the GOD in whose hands our Breath is, and whose are all our ways. To this end we are to be ready upon all proper Occasions to communicate our Experiences of his Mercy & Power; and to declare what he hath done for our Souls. We are not only to meditate upon his Works; but to talk of his Doings. We are to speak of the might of his terrible Acts, and to declare his Greatness. Abundantly to utter the memory of his great Goodness, and to sing of his Righteousness. And in a word to encourage ourselves & others to love, fear and serve him, and in all future Exigencies to hope and trust in him.

Thus I have done with the several particulars proposed from the Words. And whoever of us have had a true Relation of the Persons whose

whose Sufferings, Preservation & Deliverance gave Rise to the present Discourse; or have seen the Account that has been published of GOD's Dealings with them, may find something under each Head, one way or other applicable to their Case.

The Distress they were in could not but be very great: not only when they tho't themselves just sinking and immediately perishing in the deep; but even after they had escaped the Seas, and were ready to say, that surely the Bitterness of Death was past: When they found themselves upon a remote Rock, comparatively but of a small Compass; having recovered little or nothing of the Provisions they were laden with, to satisfy their craving Appetites; nor any thing but a little Canvas to skreen them from the extream Severities of the Season: Their Circumstances must needs be very sad & doleful. Death in it's most terrible Array presented it self to their View; and if at any Time there seemed to be some small prospect of their Escape, it presently vanished; their Hopes were quickly dash'd and destroyed. In this miserable & distressed State did they continue for more than twenty Days, in this difficult Season of the Year, wholly without Fire, and in a manner without Food, till one of the Company expiring, they fed upon his dead Body, and so preserved their own alive. And then, together with their bodily Miseries, we are informed that they were some of them under the utmost Horrors of Conscience, and in the greatest Distress

Distress of Mind: So that as the Text expresses it, *The sorrows of Death compassed them, and the pains of Hell gat hold upon them: They found trouble & sorrow.* And accordingly they took the same Course the Psalmist did: *They called upon the name of the Lord,* and put up their united Cries to GOD to deliver their Souls. And met with the like Success that he did. He who is said to *regard the Prayer of the destitute, heard their voice out of his Temple, their cry came before Him, even into his Ears:* And he very wonderfully appeared for them. His Power & Goodness were remarkably and almost miraculously displayed, in supporting & preserving their frail Lives for so long a Time, when in danger of perishing thro' the Extremities of Cold & Hunger: As also in destroying their Schemes, and disappointing their Designs; and by not suffering them to take their own Way & Time for Deliverance, which they were afterwards made to see most to human Appearance have proved fatal to them. Till at length when they were just upon perishing, and when Nature without a perfect Miracle, could possibly have held out no longer, GOD is pleased to work out Deliverance for them; and the Commander, and of thirteen besides, all but four escape the living Monuments of his Mercy. And as they found abundant Cause to say with the Psalmist in the Text, *Gracious is the Lord & Righteous, yea our God is merciful;* so I hope & trust they have taken Pattern from him, in a due Care to maintain
and

and express a grateful Sense & Remembrance of what he hath done for them.

All the Use I shall further make of what hath been now said, shall be in a short Address,

1. To those especially of a *Seafaring Employment*, who have been delivered out of great and distressing Dangers. And,

2. To those who tho' they have been *exposed* to such Dangers, have been in a great Measure kept from *falling into them*.

1. I would in a few words Address my self *to those, especially of a Seafaring Employment, who have had signal Experience of the Mercy of G O D, in being delivered out of great and distressing Dangers.*

I make no Question but this has been the Case with a great many of you. Your Straits and Exigencies have without doubt been sometimes such, that there has been nothing but the prospect of Death before your Eyes, and you could see no way to escape it; that you have tho't yourselves just ready to bid a final Farewel to this World, and to be wafted into an endless and unchangeable State: But GOD has been your Strength & Refuge, a very present Help in Trouble. Having cried to him, he hath heard and delivered you, and thro' his great Goodness you are alive this Day to speak of his Mercy, and to tell of all his wondrous Works. And now let me exhort such of you, a little to look back, to *Remember your Affliction, and your*
Misery

Misery, the Wormwood and the Gall. Let your Souls have them still in R^eembrance, and be humbled in you. Call to Mind the Thoughts and Apprehensions you had of Things in the Times of your Danger & Distress. Consider what you then thought of this World, and how light you sat by those Enjoyments of it, that now appear so bright & dazzling, and that are so much admired and ador'd by the generality of Mankind. Consider likewise what Views you then had of another World, and what you would have given to have been assured of a Right and Title to the Glory and Blessedness of it. Consider how it was you then wished you had liv'd, and how you then thought, resolv'd and promised to live, if GOD should spare you. And now when he has been pleas'd to allow you a longer Space, and to give you some further Time of Trial, it may be a matter worthy of your serious Reflection whether you have not in a great measure lost these Impressions, and neglected to fulfil your solemn Promises and Resolutions? If so, Let me entreat you to mourn this your Sinful Ingratitude, and now to pay your Vows to the most High. Give GOD the Glory of what he hath done for you. Don't attribute your Preservations to your own Courage & Bravery, or to your Skill and Industry, which without a kind Providence, would have been utterly insufficient for your Safety: But ascribe them entirely to GOD; saying with the Psalmist, *Psal. 68. 20. He that is our God, is the God of Salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the Issues from Death.* Accordingly

cordingly let a grateful sense of GOD's great Goodness perpetually abide upon your Hearts; and be always careful to speak well of his Name. Let nothing that is profane, or any ways vile and sinful ever proceed from your Lips; nor dare to indulge your selves in any thing that will be dishonourable and provoking to him in the Course of your Lives. *Seeing as Ezra expresses it, God hath punished you less than your Iniquities have deserved, and hath given you such Deliverances as these, should you again break his Commandments, would he not be angry with you, till he had consumed you, so that there should be no escaping, Ezra 9.13,14.* Be perswaded then, no longer to continue the Servants of Sin; but give up your selves to GOD in JESUS CHRIST. Considering how great Things GOD hath done for you, let the remainder of your Lives be devoted to his Honour, and spent in his Service. And be from hence encouraged in all future Difficulties, to have your eyes unto him, and to place your Hope and Confidence in him: Resolving with David, Psal. 57. 1. *That in the shadow of his wings you will make your Refuge until these Calamities be over-past* And then,

2. I would take leave to Address my self to *those who tho' they have been expos'd to great and distressing Dangers, yet have been in a great measure kept from falling into them.*

This has been the Case of a great many in the World. Tho' they have been liable to the same Perils with others; Perils upon the Land, and Perils upon the Sea; yet have never been reduc'd to those Straits & Extremities that a
great

great many have fallen into. And is this the Case with any of you? Have you escaped those dangerous Diseases whereby multitudes have been carried down to silence, and a great many others brought to the very Confines of the Grave? Have you been kept from falling into the Hands of cruel and barbarous Enemies, whilst others that have been no more liable than yourselves, have become a Prey to them, and have been carryed away Captive by them? Have you been in a great measure Saved from distressing Storms and Tempests, and Steer'd clear of the perillous Rocks whereon Multitudes have dash'd, and been devoured, and whereby a great many Others have been brought very nigh to Destruction? What is it but the kind Providence of GOD, and not your own Care and Skill that has preserved you from them? And how peculiarly do you stand indebted and obliged to it? For as one well observes, "It is as great a Mercy to be preserved from Danger, as to be delivered out of it. He does me as great a Kindness, that keeps me from falling, as he that helps me up: And tho' we are not so sensible of it; He that never came into the Difficulty, enjoys as great a Benefit, as he that is rescued from it.

If therefore there be any of you, who in crossing the Seas, or upon any other account have been expos'd to peculiar Difficulties & Distresses, and yet have never fallen into them; let me entreat you to remember that your Experience of GOD's Goodness has not been less, but rather greater than theirs, who have been reduc'd to

them, & delivered out of them; and that you are at least equally obliged to admire it, & adore him for it. *It is the Lord that hath been your Keeper. The Lord that hath been your Shade upon your right Hand; and that hath preserved you from all Evil. It is the Lord that hath preserved your going out, & your coming in.* Be therefore very studious what Returns you shall make to the GOD of your Mercies: And be ever solicitous to live to his Praise.

In a word, There are none of us, even of those that have been least expos'd, but have been daily liable to a great many destructive Accidents: And to whom else are we indebted, but to a good, and gracious GOD, that they have not prov'd fatal to us? Yea, to what, but a divine Care can it be ascribed, that we are not among the Thousands, (many of which have been within our Notice and Observation,) who the Year past have gone down to the Grave, and are numbered among the Dead? Having then, thro' the good Hand of our GOD upon us, our Lives as yet preserved, and being brought to the Beginning of another Year; Let us admire his sparing Mercy, and give Him the Glory of it. It may well be Matter of deep abasement to us, that we have lived so unprofitably in the World: That tho' GOD has come one Year after another seeking Fruit, He hath found none, or next to none. And if we continue unfruitful, whither He will be prevail'd with to *Let us alone this Year also*, is very doubtful and uncertain. For ought we know the Exercise of his Patience towards us may be just expiring, and he may be de-

determined speedily to cut us down. Let us then fear any longer merely to *Cumber the Ground*. If there be any of us, that have not yet begun to live to GOD, let us do it NOW. Or, if we have already engaged in his Service, Let us exert ourselves and be more lively, active and vigorous in it, than ever. This is the best expression of Gratitude for past Preservations, and the best Preservative for future Events. Thus let us begin the Year, and what ever may be the Contingencies of it, it will be a happy Year to us. If we see the close of it, we shall with comfort look back upon it. And if our Lives expire before the Conclusion of the Year, (which will doubtless be the Case with many here present) we shall exchange this Mortal Life for a blessed Immortality : For a Life in which the Sorrows of Death shall no more encompass us, nor the Pains of Hell get hold on us : And in which there will be Nothing at all to disturb and grieve us : But our Joys will be perfect and compleat, & without the least Interruption or Allay throughout Eternal Ages.

A
NARRATIVE
 OF THE
SUFFERINGS,
Preservation and Deliverance
 OF
Capt. John Deane, &c.

As it was Printed in 1711. & in 1722. and
 now Reprinted in 1727.

THE *Nottingham-Gally*, of and from London,
 120 Tons, 10 Guns, and 14 Men, *John Deane*
Commander; having taken in Cordage in England,
 and Butter & Cheese in Ireland, sail'd for Boston
 in New-England, the 25th of September 1710. But
 meeting with contrary Winds & bad Weather,
 'twas the Beginning of December when first made
 Land to the Eastward of *Piscataqua*, and haling
 Southerly for the *Massachusetts Bay*, under a hard
 gale of Wind at North-East, accompanied with
 Rain, Hail and Snow, having no Observation for
 10 or 12 Days. We on the *Eleventh* handed all
 our Sails, except our Fore Sail, and Main-Top-
 Sail double reefed, ordering one Hand forward to
 look out; Between 8 & 9 going forward my self.

I saw the *Breakers* a-Head : whereupon I call'd out to put the Helm hard a Starboard, but 'ere the Ship cou'd wear, we struck upon the Rock call'd *Boon-Island*, 5 Leagues to the Eastward of *Piscataqua*.

The Second or Third Sea heav'd the Ship along Side of it, running likewise so very high, and the Ship labouring so excessively, that we were not able to stand upon Deck : and notwithstanding it was not above 30 or 40 Yards, yet the Weather was so thick & dark we cou'd not see the Rock, so that we were justly thrown into a Consternation, at the sad Prospect of immediately perishing in the Sea. I presently call'd down all Hands to the Cabin, where we continu'd a few Minutes earnestly supplicating Mercy ; but knowing Prayers without Endeavours are vain, I order'd all up again, to cut the Masts by the board, but several sunk so under Racks of Conscience, that they were not able to stir : However, we upon Deck cut the Wethermost Shrouds, and the Ship heeling towards the Rock, the Force of the Sea soon broke the Masts, so that they fell right towards the Shore.

One of the Men went out on the Bowsprit, and returning, told me he saw something black a-Head, and wou'd adventure to get on Shore, accompanied with any other Person ; upon which I desir'd some of the best Swimmers (my Mate and one more) to go with him, and if they recover'd the Rock, to give Notice by their Calls, and direct us to the most secure Place ; and remembering some Money & Papers that might be of use, also Ammunition, Brandy, &c. I went down

down and open'd the Place in which they were : but the Ship bulging, her Decks opening, her Back broke, and Beams giving Way, so that the Stern sunk almost under Water, I was oblig'd to hasten forward, to prevent immediate perishing: And having heard nothing of the Men gone before, concluded them lost : yet notwithstanding, I was under a Necessity to make the same Adventure upon the Fore-Mast, moving gradually forward betwixt every Sea, 'till at last quitting it, I cast my self with all the Strength I had toward the Rock, and it being dead low Water and the Rock exceeding slippery I cou'd get no hold, but tore my Fingers, Hands & Arms in a most lamentable Manner, every Wash of the Sea fetching me off again; so that it was with the utmost Peril & Difficulty that I got safe on Shore at last. The Rest of the Men running the same Hazard, yet thro' Mercy we all escap'd with our Lives.

After endeavouring to discharge the Salt-Water, and creeping a little Way up the Rock, I heard the Three Men mentioned before, and by Ten all met together; where with joyful Hearts we return'd humble Thanks to Providence for our Deliverance from so eminent a Danger. We then endeavour'd to gain Shelter to the Lee-ward of the Rock, but found it so small & inconsiderable, that it wou'd afford none, (being but about 100 Yards long, and 50 broad) and so very craggy, that we cou'd not walk to keep ourselves warm, the Weather still continuing extrem cold, with Snow and Rain.

As soon as Day-light appeared, I went towards the Place where we came on Shore, not questioning but we should meet with Provisions enough from the Wreck for our Support; but found only some Pieces of the Masts and Yards, amongst some old Junk and Cables conger'd together, which the Anchors had prevented from being carried away, and kept moving about the Rock at some Distance: Part of the Ships Stores with some Pieces of Plank and Timber, old Sails and Canvas, &c. drove on Shore, but nothing to eat, except some small Pieces of Cheese we pick'd up from among the Rocks Weeds (in the whole to the Quantity of three small Cheeses).

We used our utmost Endeavour to get Fire, (having Steel & Flint with us; also by a Drill with a very swift Motion) but having nothing but what had been long water-soak'd, we could not effect it. At Night we stow'd one upon another (under our Canvas) in the best Manner possible, to keep each other warm: and the next Day the Weather a little clearing, and inclining to Frosty I went out, and seeing the main Land knew where we were, therefore encouraged my Men with Hopes of being discovered by fishing Shallops, &c. requiring them to go about, and fetch up what Planks they could get, (as also Carpenters Tools and Stores, &c.) in order to build a Tent and a Boory. The Cook then complaining he was almost starv'd, and his Countenance discovering his Illness, I ordered him to remain with 2 or 3 more till the Frost had seiz'd: About noon the Men acquainted me that he was dead, so laid him in a convenient Place for the Sea to carry him away; none men-

clothing eating of him, the several with my self afterwards acknowledged, had Thots of it. After we had been there two or three Days, the Frost being very severe, the Weather extream cold, it seized most of our Hands & Feet to such a Degree, as to take away the Sence of Feeling, & render them almost useles; so benumbing & discoloured them, as gave us just Reason to fear Mortification. We pull'd off our Shoes, and cut off our Boots, but in getting off our Stockings, many whose Legs were blister'd, pull'd off Skin and all, and some the Nails of their Toes: we wrap'd up our Legs and Feet as warm as we could, in Oakum and Canvas.

We now began to build our Tent in a triangular Form, each Angle about 8 Foot, covered with what Sails and old Canvas came on Shore; having just Room for all to lie down each on one Side, so that none cou'd turn except all turn'd, which was about every two Hours, upon Notice given: We also fix'd a Staff to the Top of our Tent, upon which (as often as Weather wou'd permit) we hoisted a Piece of Cloth in the Form of a Flag, in order to discover our selves to any Vessels that might come near.

We began now to build our Boat of Plank & Timber belonging to the Wreck; our Tools the Blade of a Cutlash (made into a Saw with our Knives) a Hammer & a Caulking-Mallet: Some Nails we found in the Clifts of the Rock, others we got from the Sheathing: we laid 3 Planks flat for the Bottom, and Two up each Side fix'd to Rauchings, & let into the bottom Timbers, with 2 short Pieces at each End, also one Breadth of new
Holland

Holland Duck round the Sides, to keep out the Spry of the Sea : We cork'd all we could with Oakum drawn from the old junk, and in other Places, fill'd up the Distances with long Pieces of Canvas, all which we secured in the best Manner possible : we found also some Sheet Lead & Pump Leather, which proved of use : we fix'd a short Mast and square Sail, with Seven Paddles for row, and another longer to steer : but our Carpenter, who now should have been of most use to us, was (by reason of Illness) scarce able to afford us either Assistance or Advice ; & all the Rest so benumb'd and Feeble as not able to stir, except my self and 2 more ; also the Weather so extream cold, that we could seldom stay out of the Tent above 4 Hours in the Day, & some Days do nothing at all.

When we had been there about a Week without any manner of Provisions, except the Cheese before mentioned & some Beefe Bones, which we eat (first breaking them to Pieces), we saw 3 Boats about 5 Leagues from us, which may be easily imagined rejoiced us not a little, believing our Deliverance was now come : I made all creep out of the Tent, and halloo together (so well as our Strength would allow) making also all the Signals we could, but alas all in vain ; they neither hearing nor otherwise discovering us : However we receiv'd no small Encouragement from the sight of 'em ; they coming from S. West, and the Wind at N. E. when we were cast away, gave us reason to conclude our Distress might be known by the Wreck driving on Shoar, & to presume they were come out in search of us, and that they would Daily do so when Weather would

would permit : thus we flatter'd our selves in hopes of Deliverance tho' In vain.

Just before we had finished our Boat, Providence so ordered it, that the Carpenter's Ax was cast on the Rock to us, whereby we were enabled to compleat our Work ; but then we had scarce Strength enough to get her into the Water.

About the 21st (*December*) the Boat just perfected, a fine Day, and the Water smoother than I had ever yet seen it since we came there, we consulted who shou'd attempt getting on Shore; I offering my self as one to adventure, which they agreed to, because I was the strongest, and therefore fittest to undergo the Extremities we might be reduced to. My Mate also offering himself, and desiring to accompany me, I was allow'd him with my Brother, and four more : so committing our Enterprize to Divine Providence, all that were able came out, & with much Difficulty we got our poor patch'd up Boat to the Water Side ; and the Surf running very high, was obliged to wade very deep to launch her ; which being done, and my self & one one more got into her, the Swell of the Sea heav'd her along Shore, and overset her upon us, (whereby we again narrowly escap'd drowning) and stav'd our poor Boat all to pieces ; Totally disappointing our Enterprize & destroying all our Hopes at once.

And as that which still heighten'd our Afflictions, and serv'd to aggravate our miserable prospects, and render our Deliverance less practicable ; We lost with our Boat, both our Ax & Hammer, which wou'd have been of great Use to us

if we should hereafter attempt to build a Raft. Yet had we reason to admire the Goodness of God, in over-ruling our Disappointment, for our Safety ; for that Afternoon, the Wind springing up it blew very hard, so that had we been at Sea in that imitation of a Boat, in all probability we must have perish'd, & the rest left behind had no better Fate, because unable to help themselves.

We are now reduc'd to the most deplorable and melancholly Circumstances imaginable ; almost every Man but my self, weak to an Extremity, and near starved with Hunger & Cold ; their Hands & Feet frozen & mortified, with large & deep Ulcers in their Legs (the very smell offensive to those of us, who could creep into the Air) and nothing to dress them with, but a Piece of Linen that was cast on Shore. No Fire, and the Weather extream cold ; our small Stock of Cheese spent, & nothing to support our feeble Bodies but Rock-weed & a few Mushes, scarce & difficult to get (at most, not above 2 or 3 for each Man a Day). So that we had our miserable Bodies perishing, and our poor disconsolate Spirits overpowered with the deplorable Prospect of starving, without any Appearance of Relief : Besides, to heighten (if possible) the Aggravation, we had reason to apprehend, least the approaching Spring-Tide (if accompanied with high Wind) would totally over-throw us. How dismal such a Circumstance must be, is impossible to express ; the pinching Cold and Hunger, extremity of Weakness & Pain, Racks & Horror of Conscience (to many) & Foresight of cer-

certain & painful (but lingering) Death, without any (even the most remote) views of Deliverance. How heighten'd? How aggravated? Is such Misery! and yet alas such was our deplorable Case: insomuch that the greater Part of our Company were ready to die with Horror and Despair, without the least Hopes of Escaping.

For my own Part, I did my utmost to encourage my self, and exhort the rest to trust in God and patiently wait for his Salvation: & Providence, a little to alleviate our Distress, & encourage our Faith, directed my Mate to strike down a Sea Gull, which he joyfully brought to me, & I equally divided every one a Porcion; and (tho' raw and scarce every one a Mouthful) yet we received and eat it thankfully.

The last Method of Safety we could possibly propose was, the fixing a Raft that might carry Two Men, which was mightily urged by one of our Men, a *Sweed*, a stout brave Fellow but had since our Distress lost both his Feet by the Frost: he frequently importun'd me, to attempt our Deliverance in that Way, offering himself to accompany me, or if I refused him to go alone: After deliberate Thoughts & Consideration, we resolv'd upon a Raft, but found abundance of Labour & Difficulty in clearing the Fore-Yard (of which it was chiefly to be made) from the Junk, by reason our working Hands were so few & weak.

That done, we split the Yard, & with two Parts made Side Pieces, fixing others, & adding some of the lightest Plank we cou'd get, first spiking & afterwards seizing them firm, in breadth 4 Foot: We likewise fix'd a Mast, & of two Hammocks that

that were drove on Shore we made a Sail, with a Paddle for each Man & a spare one in Case of Necessity. This Difficulty thus surmounted & brought to a period, he wou'd frequently ask me whether I design'd to accompany him, giving me also to understand that if I declin'd, there was another ready to embrace the Offer.

About this Time we saw a Sail come out of Piscataqua River, about 7 Leagues to the Westward; we again made all the signal we cou'd, but the Wind being at N. West, & the Ship standing to the East-ward, was presently out of sight, without ever coming near us, which prov'd a very great Mortification to our Hopes. But the next Day being moderate, & in the Afternoon a small Breze right on Shoar, also the Raft wholly finish'd, the two Men were very folicitous to have it launch'd; & the Mate as strenuously oppos'd it, on account it was so late (being 2 in the Afternoon) but they urging the light Nights, beg'd of me to have it done, to which at last I agreed; first committing the Enterprize to God's Blessing; they both got upon it, & the Swell rowing very high soon overset them as it did our Boat; the *Sweed* not minding it swam on Shore, but the other (being no Swimmer) continu'd some Time under Water, and as soon as appear'd I caught hold of him & sav'd him, but was so discourag'd, that he was afraid to make a second Attempt.

I desir'd the *Sweed* to wait a more favourable Opportunity, but he continuing resolute, beg'd me to go with him, or help him to turn the Raft, and would go himself alone.

By this Time another Man came down and offer'd

offer'd to adventure: so getting upon the Raft
 launch'd 'em off, they desiring us to go to Prayers,
 also to watch what became of them; I did so,
 & by Sun-set judg'd them half Way to the Main,
 and that they might reach the Shoar by 2 in the
 Morning: But I suppose they fell in with some
 Breakers, or the Violence of the Sea overset
 them and they perish'd; for two Days after, the
 Raft was found on Shore, and one Man dead
 about a Mile from it, with a Paddle fastned to his
 Wrist; but the *Sweed* who was so very forward
 to adventure, was never heard of more.

• We upon the disolate Island not knowing
 what had befallen them waited daily for Deli-
 verance: and our expectations were the more
 heightened by a smoak we saw in the Woods,
 two Days after (the Signal appointed if arriv'd
 safe) which continued every Day; and being
 willing to believe it made on our Account, tho'
 saw no appearance of any thing towards our Re-
 lief, yet suppos'd the Delay was occasion'd, by
 their not being able to procure a Vessel so soon
 as we desir'd; and this Hope under God, serv'd
 to bear up our Spirits and Support us much.

• But still our great Want was Provisions; having
 nothing to eat but Rockweed and a very few
 Muscles; and the Spring-Tide being (thank God
 safely over) we cou'd scarce get any at all. I have
 gone my self (no other Person being able) se-
 veral Days at low Water, and cou'd get no more
 than 2 or 3 a Piece, and have frequently been in
 Danger of losing my Hands and Arms by putting
 them so often in Water; which when got, my
 Stomach refus'd, and rather chose Rockweed.

THE NEWBORN CHILD BAPTIZED WITH WATER
 B' 1750

At our first coming saw several *Seals* upon the Rock, and supposing they might harbour there in the Night, I walkt round at Midnight, but cou'd never get any Thing: We also saw a great many Fowls, but they perceiving us daily there, wou'd never come on the Rock to lodge, so that we caught none.

Which Disappointment was very greivous and still serv'd to irritate our Miseries, but it was more especially afflicting to a Brother I had with me, & another young Gentleman, who had never (either of 'em) been at Sea, or endur'd any Severities before; but were now reduc'd to the last Extremities, having no assistance but what they receiv'd from me.

Part of a Green Hide being thrown up by the Sea, (fasten'd to a Piece of the Main-Yard) the Men importun'd me to bring it to the Tent, which being done we minc'd it small and swallow'd it down.

About this time I set the Men to open Junck, and with the Rope-Yarn (when Weather would permit) I thatcht the Tent in the best Manner my Strength wou'd allow, that it might the better shelter us from Extremities of Weather: And it prov'd of so much Service as to turn 2 or 3 Hours Rain, and preserve us from the cold pinching Winds which were always very severe upon us.

About the latter End of this Month (viz. December) our Carpenter (a fat Man, & naturally of a dull, heavy, Phlegmatick Constitution & Disposition, aged about 47) who from our first coming on Shore, had always been very ill & lost the Use of his Feet, complain'd of an excessive Pain in his Back,

Back, and Stiffness in his Neck : being likewise almost choakt with Phlegm (for Want of Strength to discharge it) so that to our Apprehension he drew near his End. We pray'd over him & us'd our utmost Endeavours to be serviceable to him in his last Moments ; he shew'd himself sensible tho' speechless, & that Night died : We suffered the Body to remain with us 'till Morning, when I desir'd them who were best able, to remove it ; creeping out my self, to see if Providence had yet sent us any thing, to satisfy our extreamly craving Appetites: Before Noon returning and not seeing the dead Body without, I ask'd why they had not remov'd it ? And receiv'd for Answer, they were not all of them able : Whereupon fastening a Rope to the Body, I gave the Utmost of my Assistance, and with some Difficulty we got it out of the Tent. But the Fatigue & Consideration of our Misery together, so overcame my Spirits, that being ready to faint I crept into the Tent, and was no sooner got in there, but (as the highest Addition of Trouble) the Men began to request of me the dead Body to eat, the better to support their Lives.

This, of all I had met with, was the most grievous & shocking to me, to see my self & Company, who came thither laded with Provisions but three Weeks before, now reduc'd to such a deplorable Circumstance, as to have two of us absolutely starv'd to Death, other two we knew not what was become of, and the Rest of us at the last Extremity and (tho' still living, yet) requiring to eat the Dead for Support.

After Abundance of mature Thought & Consultation

sultation about the Lawfulness or Sinfulness on the one Hand, & absolute Necessity on the other ; Judgment, Conscience, &c. were oblig'd to submit to the more prevailing Arguments of our craving Appetites ; so that at last we determined to satisfy our Hunger and support our feeble Bodies with the Carcass in Possession : first ordering his Skin, Head, Hands, Feet and Bowels to be buried in the Sea, and the Body to be quarter'd for Conveniency of drying and carriage, to which I again receiv'd for Answer that they were not all of them able, but entreated I would perform it for them : A Task very grievous & not readily comply'd with, but their incessant Prayers and Intreaties at last prevail'd, and by Night I had perform'd my Labour.

I then cut Part of the Flesh in thin Slices, and washing it in Saltwater, brought it to the Tent, and oblig'd the Men to eat Rockweed along with it, to serve instead of Bread.

My Mate & two others, refus'd to eat any that Night, but next Morning complied, & earnestly desir'd to partake with the Rest.

I found they all eat abundance & with the utmost Greediness, so that I was constrain'd to carry the Quarters farther from the Tent, (quite out of their Reach) lest they shou'd prejudice themselves by overmuch eating, as also expend our small Stock too soon.

I also limited each Man to an equal Proportion, that none might quarrel, or entertain hard thoughts of my self, or one another, & I was the more oblig'd to this Method, because I found (in a few Days) their very natural Dispositions

chang'd, and that affectionate peacable Tempest they had all along hitherto discover'd, totally lost; their Eyes staring and looking wild, their Countinances fierce and barbarous, and instead of obeying my Commands (as they had universally and readily done before) I found all I cou'd say (even Prayers and Entreaties vain and fruitless) nothing now being to be heard but brutish Quarrels, with horrid Oaths and Imprecations, instead of that quiet submissive Spirit of Prayer and Supplication we had before enjoy'd.

This, together with the dismal Prospect of future Want, oblig'd me to keep a strict Watch over the Rest of the Body, least any of 'em shou'd (if able) get to it, and this being spent, we were forc'd to feed upon the living: Which we must certainly have done, had we staid a few Days longer.

But now the Goodness of God began to appear, and make Provision for our Deliverance, by putting it in the Hearts of the good People on Shore, where our Raft drove, to come out in Search of us; which they did the 2d of *January* in the Morning.

Just as I was creeping out of the Tent, I saw a Shallop half Way from the Shore, standing directly towards us which may be easily imagined was Life from the Dead; how great our Joy and Satisfaction were, at the Prospect of so speedy and unexpected Deliverance, no Tongue is able to express, nor Thoughts to conceive.

Our good & welcome Friends came to an Anchor to the *South-West*, at about 100 Yards distance, (the Swell not suffering them to come nearer)

but their Anchor coming home, oblig'd them to stand off 'til about Noon, waiting for smoother Water upon the Flood : Mean Time our Passions were differently mov'd, our Expectations of Deliverance and Fears of Miscarriage, hurry'd our weak and disorder'd Spirits strangely.

I gave them Account of our Miseries in every Respect, except the Want of Provisions (which I did not mention, least I shou'd not get them on shore for fear of being constrain'd by the Weather to tarry with us) : Earnestly entreating them to attempt our immediate Deliverance ; or at least (if possible) to furnish us with Fire, which with the utmost Hazard and Difficulty they at last accomplished, by sending a small Canoe with one Man, who with abundance of Labour got on Shore.

After helping him up with his Canoe, and seeing nothing to eat, I ask'd him if he could give us Fire, he answer'd in the Affirmative, but was so affrighted (seeing me look so thin & meager) that cou'd hardly at first return me an Answer : But recollecting himself, after several Questions askt on both Sides, he went with me to the Tent, where was surpriz'd to see so many of us in so deplorable Condition.

Our Flesh so wasted, & our Looks so gashly and frightful that it was really a very dismal Prospect.

With some Difficulty we made a Fire, determining to go my self with the Man on Board, and after to send for the Rest, one or two at a Time, and accordingly got both into the Canoe but the Sea immediately drove it with such Violence against the Rock, that overset us into the Water ; and I being very weak, 'twas a great while

while before cou'd recover my self, so that I had again a very narrow Escape from Drowning.

The good Man with very great Difficulty, got on Board himself without me, designing to return the next Day with better Conveniencies if Weather would permit.

'Twas a very uncomfortable Sight to see our worthy Friends in the Shallop stand away for the Shore without us: But God who orders all our Affairs (by unseen Movements) for the best, had doubtless Designs of Preservation towards us, in denying us that Appearance of present Deliverance: For that Night the Wind coming about to *South-East*, blowing hard and dark Weather, our good Friends lost their Shallop, & with extrem Difficulty sav'd their Lives: But, in all Probability, had we been with them, we must have perish'd, not having Strength sufficient, to help our selves.

Immediately after their getting on Shore, they sent an Express to *Portsmouth* in *Piscataqua*, where the good People made no Delay in hastening to our Deliverance, as soon as Weather would allow. But to our great Sorrow, and for further Tryal of our Patience, the next Day continued very stormy, so that, tho' we doubted not, but the People on Shore knew our Condition, and would assist us as soon as possible, yet our Flesh being near spent, no fresh Water, nor any Certainty how long the Weather might continue thus, render'd our Circumstance still miserable, tho' much advantag'd by the Fire, for now we cou'd both warm our selves and broil our Meat.

The next Day, our Men urging me vehemently

for Flesh, I gave them a little more than usual, but not to their Satisfaction, for they wou'd certainly have eat up the whole at once, had I not carefully watch'd 'em, designing to share the rest next Morning, if the Weather continu'd bad. But it pleased God that Night the Wind abated, and early next Morning a Shallop came for us, with my much esteemed friends Captain *Long* and Capt. *Purver* and three more Men, who brought a large Canoe, and in two Hours Time got us all on Board to their Satisfaction & our great Comfort: Being forc'd to carry almost all the Men upon their Backs, from the Tent to the Canoe, and fetch them off by two or three at a Time.

When we first came on Board the Sallop, each of us eat a Bit of Bread and drank a Dram of Rum, and most of us were extreemly Sea-sick; but after we had cleans'd our Stomachs, and tasted warm nourishing Food we became so exceedingly hungry and ravenous, that had not our worthy Friends dieted us (and limited the Quantity for about two or three Days) we should certainly have destroy'd our selves with eating.

We had also two other Vessels came off for our Assistance, if there had been any Necessity (so generous and charitable were the good People of *New-England*, in our Distress) but seeing on Board the Shallop made the best of Way Home again.

Eight at Night we came on Shore, where we were kindly entertain'd my self and another private House (having Credit sufficient to us) all the Rest at the Charge of the Government, who took such care that the poor Men

Men knew not the least want of any thing their necessities call'd for, or the kind and generous *Gentlemen* could furnish them with (the Care Industry and Generosity of my much honoured Friend *John Plaisted Esq* & Capt *John Wentworth*, the present Lieutenant Governour, in serving both my self and those poor Men being particularly eminent) providing them a good Surgeon and Nurses till well, bearing the Charge, and afterwards allowing each Man sufficient Cloathing; behaving themselves in the whole, with so much Freedom, Generosity and Christian Temper, that was no small Addition to their other Services, & render'd the whole worthy both of Admiration and Imitation; and likewise was of the last Consequence to the poor Men in their Distress.

Two Days after we came on Shore, my Apprentice lost a great part of one Foot, the rest all recovered their Limbs, but not their perfect Use. Very few (besides my self) escaping without losing the Benefit of Fingers or Toes, &c. tho' thank God all otherwise in perfect Health; some sailing one Way and some another: My Mate and two or three more were in *England* the first Publication hereof.

F I N I S